ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A brake shoe assembly comprising a brake shoe to which brake plates are assembled. The brake shoe has a key that extends outwardly from an outer radial surface of the brake shoe. The key is received in a slot formed in a backing plate of the brake plate. Preassembled rivets are provided on the brake plates to facilitate alignment of the brake plates with the brake shoe so that the key is received in the slot. Rivets are provided in four open corner areas so that the brake plate may be secured to the brake shoe with metal-to-metal contact where the brake plate is riveted to the brake shoe.